



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### RARE TRUMPETER SWANS ARE HOLDING THEIR OWN, SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE

The rare trumpeter swan, which is on the verge of extinction, apparently is holding its own in the United States, a joint report of the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes revealed today.

At least 211 of these huge birds are found on the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, Mont., Yellowstone National Park, Wyo., and the surrounding area. Last year 190 of these birds were reported.

The count was conducted cooperatively by personnel of the two Services.

In addition to the small flock in the Red Rock Lakes-Yellowstone region, another group of trumpeters is being protected in Canada.

Officially classified as the largest migratory waterfowl in North America, the trumpeter no longer migrates over long distances. Until recently, movements of the United States flock were generally confined between the refuge and the park.

This year adults and cygnets were found for the first time on Hebgen Lake, which lies between the two Department of Interior sanctuaries.

Once an abundant bird, the trumpeter swan population declined so rapidly that during the early part of the century the species was thought to be extinct. Then a small flock was discovered in the Yellowstone Park region and efforts were begun to restore the species.

This year's count showed a total of 142 adults and 69 cygnets (young), while last year there were 122 adults and 68 cygnets.

A breakdown of the present flocks show there were 96 trumpeters on the Red Rock Lakes Refuge (52 adults, 44 cygnets), 59 on Yellowstone Park (44 adults, 15 cygnets), 51 on surrounding lands (41 adults, 10 cygnets), 2 adults transferred to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oreg., and 3 adults transferred to the National Elk Refuge, Wyo.

Trumpeter swan populations since annual counts have been made are as follows: 33 (1934); 73 (1935); 114 (1936); 168 (1937); 148 (1938); 199 (1939); 190 (1940); and 211 (1941).

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